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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09 620,718	07/20/2000	Jiro Matsufusa	50006-070	3318

7590 11/29/2002

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Washington, DC 20005-3096

EXAMINER

PERALTA, GINETTE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2814

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/620,718	Applicant(s) MATSUFUSA ET AL.	
Examiner Ginette Peralta	Art Unit 2814	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2002.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.
- 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 - 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Chen et al. (U. S. Pat. 6,118,185).

Applicant's admitted prior art teaches in pages 1-3, a semiconductor device having a test mark that comprises a semiconductor substrate 21, a first TEOS layer 22 formed on the semiconductor substrate, a second TEOS layer 23 formed on the first TEOS layer 22 and having a lower fluidity than that of the first TEOS layer 22 at an elevated temperature, a recess formed in the first and second TEOS layers and exposing the surface of the semiconductor substrate, wherein the horizontal cross section of the recess is substantially rectangular in configuration, wherein the first TEOS layer contains boron and phosphorus.

Applicant's admitted prior art teaches all the limitations in the claims with the exception of a metal layer formed on the first TEOS layer and opposing the corner of the recess.

Chen et al. teaches in fig. 14 a semiconductor device having a semiconductor substrate, that has an alignment mark configuration on which a metal layer 92 is formed on an insulating layer 17 and opposing to the corner of the alignment mark 3 which has a substantially square or rectangular configuration, wherein there is an outer metal layer formed outside of the metal layer 83 so that the outer metal layer opposes the corner of the alignment mark, and wherein the metal layer 83 is embedded in the insulating layer that extends between the top and bottom surfaces of the substrate, wherein the metal layers are used for the disclosed intended purpose of providing a structure that makes the mark on the wafer easier to identify.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a box-in-box configuration as the one taught by Chen et al. in the area surrounding a test mark area as taught by the Applicant's admitted prior art for the disclosed intended purpose of improving the identification of the test mark in the wafer patterning. Furthermore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to form the metal layer having a variety of shapes as it would not yield any unexpected result, and the purpose of a better identification of the test mark would be accomplished.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ginette Peralta whose telephone number is (703)305-7722. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:00 AM- 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Olik Chaudhuri can be reached on (703)306-2794. The fax phone numbers

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for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)308-7722 for regular communications and (703)308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.

GP
November 21, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Pham', written in a cursive style.

LONG PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER